M I N U T E S

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

October 22, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held in-person at the Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library starting at 11:00 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. **Roll Call:**

Present:	President	**Kelly Besser**
	Vice President	**Fabian R. Wesson**
	Commissioner	**Linda Blank**
	Commissioner	**Joana Reyes**
	Commissioner	**Valerie Lynne Shaw**
Absent:	None	

Also: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet, administrative staff, and members of the public.

2. **Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Besser opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and extending her gratitude to the team at the Durant branch for hosting the Board. She acknowledged Branch Manager Oscar Giurcovich for leading a brief tour of the facility and shared that, while this marked her first visit inside, she frequently passes the branch on her drive to the UCLA campus and has long admired the building's distinctive architectural design.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:**
   a. Regular Meeting - September 10, 2026
   b. Regular Meeting - October 8, 2026

   It was moved by Commissioner Wesson and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on September 10, 2026 and October 8, 2026. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

4. **Branch Manager: Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library:**

   Hollywood Area Regional Manager Meredith McGowan introduced Oscar Giurcovich, Manager of the Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library. Mr. Giurcovich welcomed the Board and provided an overview of the branch. Originally opened in 1922 as the "West Hollywood" branch, it was dedicated under its current name in 1988 and moved to its present location in 2004.

5. **Public Comments on Matters Within the Board's Jurisdiction:** None.

6. **City Librarian's Comments and Announcements:** City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming events.

7. City Librarian's Reports:

Discussion Items

a. Acceptance of a gift of four Booktrucks for the Woodland Hills Branch Library received from Woodland Hills Friends of the Library.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of a gift from the Friends of the Woodland Hills Library: four LibraryQuiet Mini booktrucks valued at $1,451.58 for the Woodland Hills Branch Library.

It was moved by Commissioner Blank and seconded by Commissioner Reyes to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-42

RESOLVED, that a gift of four LibraryQuiet Mini Booktrucks for the Woodland Hills Library Branch valued at $1,451.58 received from Woodland Hills Friends of the Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Woodland Hills Friends of the Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

b. Acceptance of a gift of $4,000 for library materials for the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library received from the Friends of the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of a gift of $4,000 for library materials to benefit the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library received from the Friends of the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library.

It was moved by Vice President Wesson and seconded by Commissioner Reyes to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-43

RESOLVED, that a gift of $4,000 for library materials to benefit the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library received from the Friends of the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library be accepted deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 340; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Donald Bruce Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

c. Approval of an agreement with the University of Southern California Digital Repository (USC) for the digitization of the Board of Library Commissioners Meeting Minutes collection.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of an agreement with USC for the digitization of the Board of Library Commissioners Meeting Minutes collection. The Library's Special Collections Department maintains the collection of 68 volumes of bound Board of Library Commissioners Minutes dating from 1889 through 1990.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Vice President Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

WHEREAS, the Library's Special Collections Department maintains a collection of Board of Library Commissioners Minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners approved funding for the Board of Library Commissioners Minutes Digitization Project in fiscal year 2025-26;

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California Digital Repository has been determined to be uniquely equipped to receive and handle the collection;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and authorizes the award and execution of the agreement between the Library and the University of Southern California's Digital Repository.

8. Commissioners' Announcements and Comments

- January - June 2027 Board Meeting Schedule.
- Board President Besser attended the ALOUD program on Monday, October 19th: Kimberlé Crenshaw in conversation with Chandra Bhatnagar and remarked on the power and beauty of the program. She also remarked on the joy she felt in attending the Career Online High School graduation on Friday, October 9th.
- Commissioner Reyes remarked on how wonderful the LA Libros Festival was and how special it was to see the children and the families in attendance. She thanked all staff involved in planning such a beautiful day.
- Vice President Wesson expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming Special Meeting and noted how her neighborhood farmers market needed relocation, highlighting how the library intervened to support the community.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Central Library.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

ATTEST:

Kelly Besser
President

Emily Wooten
Acting Secretary to the Board